

V. Remarks

Claims 11, 14, 16, 20, 21 and 24-29 and claims 30-57, corresponding to claims 68-96 in the parent application Serial Number 09/893,846, are presented for examination. Claims 11, 14, 16, 20, 21 and 24-29 are identified corresponding their status as restricted/elected in the parent application. After restriction/election applicant expects that claims 30-57 which more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention will be examined herein.

The filing of amended claims is necessitated by the reasons pointed out in the applicant's amendment after allowance made under 37 CFR 1.312 and filed by facsimile on September 11, 2003.

The filing of the continuation is necessitated, because, on inquiry to the Office, and the Examiner herein, the file of parent application Serial Number 09/893,846 is and has been in the scanning section, making the file unavailable to the Examiner such that the Section 312 amendment presented therein cannot be considered. Without consideration and entry of the amendment, applicant's rights will be prejudiced. Examination of the amended claims in the preliminary amendment filed in this continuation will preserve applicant's rights and allow a patent to issue that more particularly point outs and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention.

As filed, the continuation includes the minor corrections to the figures, specification and abstract that were required in the parent application.

Applicant requests the foregoing amendment be entered and that this case be forthwith passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Certificate of Filing

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being filed by Express Mail Receipt No. EV342098397US to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on October 31, 2003.



Edwin M. Baranowski